

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 2025



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1935 The Plaza
Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12309
518-346-6241; office@st-stephens.church

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 19
September 14, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

Air from Overture in D

Bach

The Gathering Prayer

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #410

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation

Page #355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Page #355

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Gloria

Hymnal S-280

All: **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Page #233

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Exodus 32:7-14

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalms 51:1-11

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

The Second Lesson

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Lector: A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #489

The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant: All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Rev. Canon Richard Visconti

The Nicene Creed

Page #358

All: **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Form III

Page #387

Intercessor: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People: **That we all may be one.**

Intercessor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People: **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intercessor: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intercessor: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Intercessor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor: Give to the departed eternal rest.
People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intercessor: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People: **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Intercessor: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

*The People may add their own petitions.
 The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Page #360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
All: **Most merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

Page #360

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Shaw

The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Page #361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Page S-129

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Page #364

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Page #364

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Lamb of God

Hymnal S-161

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

The Invitation

Page #364

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Celebrant/Minister: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

The Communion Hymn

Hymnal #689

Post-Communion Prayer

Page #365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

The Blessing

Page #366

Celebrant: Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing:

We are Christ's body, and individually members of one another. We are united in ministry, even as we are sent to serve. Each of us are equipped with unique gifts of the Spirit — generosity, compassion, leadership, teaching and countless others. Go from this place committed to use your gifts to the glory of God. And know that the triune God goes with you. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #334

The Dismissal

Page #366

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Toccata

Wagner

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Our Intercessions

for the week of September 14, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of South America.

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Our Church Leaders: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Richard Visconti, Interim Priest-in-Charge.

The Church of England and the Anglican Communion, and for discernment of members of the Crown Nomination Commission.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Harrington, Marilyn Causey, Vincent Avila, Peter Nelson, Basil Dewdney, Austin Spang, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Linda, Ann M., Billy K., Jean V., and Bill Frank.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

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Announcements

September 14, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti
	Altar Guild:	Carolyn Morin
	Ushers/Greeters:	Dave Crates Doreen May
	Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
	Acolyte:	George Woodzell
	Lector:	Dave Crates
	Intercessor:	Basil Dewdney
	Counter:	Doreen May
	Coffee Hour:	The Vestry

Today's Altar Flowers are given by the congregation in thanksgiving for The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti's guiding service over the past 6 months.

Tuesday Mornings: You are invited to join The Rev. Canon John Perris in the Vestry meeting room, Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in reading and reflecting on the coming Sunday's readings. Discussion group members decide where to begin and take turns (if they wish) in reading aloud the Sunday scriptures. No prior study is required, and you can take part on just those Tuesday mornings when you are able to come for this hour.

Regional Education for Ministry (EfM) Program starting up in the fall. Education for Ministry is a Christian formation program for all adults. It helps participants to explore their faith, deepen their spiritual lives, and discover how God is calling them to serve in the world. St. Stephen's parishioners are invited to join their brothers and sisters in Christ at St. George's in this program of study. If interested or for further information, go to their website: St. George's Episcopal Church Clifton Park - Education for Ministry.

Sycamore Collaborative Food Pantry: If you have extra 2026 calendars, please bring them in for the guests at the pantry. They can also always use any personal care items, especially soap and body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste and disposable razors.

Mark your calendars! Next Sunday, September 21, immediately following the service, is our Beginning of the Program Year Parish Picnic, and welcome to Mother Lisa and her family on her official first day as our new rector. Please check the sign-up sheets in the back of the church to remind yourself what you have volunteered to do and or to bring. If you haven't signed up yet, there are still jobs needing assistance, and available food suggestions to bring. As usual, the church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, cheese, rolls, condiments, beverages, and paper products. If you have any questions, please see Linda Emaelaf or Carole Merrill-Mazurek.

Empty Pill Bottles: Thank you to all who have donated empty pill bottles! We will send them to Mathew 25: Ministries, which "accepts donations of clean, empty, recapped, label- and residue-free plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment." Keep the bottles coming and please leave them in the labeled basket on the kitchen counter.

Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour: There are still available dates on these sign-up sheets in the nave extension for donating Altar Flowers and hosting a coffee hour. Please consider your willingness and ability to fill in one or more of the blank dates.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

At Saint Stephen's

Monday, 9/15, 7:00 p.m.: Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 9/16, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Wednesday, 9/17, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.: Schenectady Clergy against Hate meeting.
7:00 p.m.: Bell Choir rehearsal.

Thursday, 9/18, 7:00 p.m.: Chancel Choir rehearsal.

Sunday, 9/21, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.
Mtr. Lisa Busby's first Sunday with us.
Fall Parish Picnic following the service.

Tuesday, 9/23, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 9/28, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.
Service Committee meeting in the Youth Lounge following the service.

Tuesday, 9/30, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 10/5, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Tuesday, 10/7, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Thursday, 10/9—Saturday, 10/11: 157th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany.

Sunday, 10/12, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 10/13, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

Tuesday, 10/14, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.
1:00 p.m.: Book Club meeting.

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Church Staff & Lay Leaders:

Rev. Susan J. Busby, Rector

George Woodzell, Senior Warden
Carole Merrill-Mazurek, Junior Warden
Susan Lohnas, Organist
Douglas Lohnas, Director of the Choir
Jon Ewbank, Office Manager
Denise Crates, Treasurer
Theresa Fay, Clerk

Vestry

Ruth Basantes	Denise Crates
Basil Dewdney	Linda Emaelaf
Vicki Hoshko	Stan Jakubowski
Deborah O'Connor	Jean Stefanski

Welcome!

We are glad you have chosen to worship and give thanks to God with us.

WORSHIP: The Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Join us for refreshments most Sundays in Begley Hall after our service.

Members of the parish offer Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please contact the church office for the link.

Other services are announced.

HYMNS: Our hymns are posted on hymn boards and are listed in our bulletin. They are drawn from the blue *Hymnal* and the black-and-red *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. "Service music," indicated with an "S" before the number, comes at the beginning of the *Hymnal*. Hymns come in the second section. Hymns from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* are preceded by an "LEV."

CHILDREN: We are delighted to have children of all ages and love hearing their voices. We offer a children's sermon when children are present and post a brief children's message each week on our website. The greeters can give them an activity pack. There is a nursery with toys and a comfortable chair if you would like to take a break from the service with your child or find a quiet place to nurse. In the Episcopal Church it is customary for parents to determine the appropriate age for children to take communion. We can always offer "first communion" instruction to you/your children.

COMMUNION: All baptized persons may receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to take the bread (wafer) or the wine, place your arms across your chest and a member of the clergy will ask God's blessing upon you and on any children not yet receiving communion. If you would like the elements brought to your seat, please speak with a greeter.

FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES: If you would like to receive communion wafers that are gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut- and corn-free at Communion, please ask for one from the ministers distributing communion.

OFFERTORY: During the offertory, the greeters take up a collection for funds which support the church and our various ministries. Many people pledge annual support, which is helpful in developing our budget. All contributions are welcomed.

MASKS: The use of masks is optional. The greeters can provide you with one if you like.

CONVERSATION / PASTORAL VISITS are available. Please contact the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome visitors from other churches as well as those for whom church is a new experience. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to talk with you about becoming a member. Please speak with a warden or fill out a pew card for someone to contact you.

LABYRINTH: Our labyrinth, in the courtyard between the church and Begley Hall, is an adaptation of the millennia-old classical type. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path in and out; there are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds from the exterior to the center and can become a mirror for our journey of life, touching our sorrows and releasing our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart. Instructions are available at the back of the church.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Please be in touch with the parish office if you have suggestions for this ministry.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Prayer request sheets can be found on the lectern in the back of the church. You can place anyone on our "Prayer Chain" by contacting Suzanne Taylor at popage@aol.com or by contacting the parish office. Please get the permission of those you add for their names to be used. We will include your request for four weeks in our services of Morning Prayer and count on you to keep us updated.

COMMUNICATION: You may contact us at 518-346-6241 (Office Phone); office@st-stephens.church (e-mail); <https://st-stephens.church> (website); and <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephensSchenectady>. The Parish Office is generally open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Rev. Lisa J. Busby can be contacted at 518-637-7736 or lisajbusby@st-stephens.church.